

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7939

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 12516

FOLLOWING TEL CALCUTTA 2078 DTD 25 AUG 76 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CALCUTTA 2078

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: DISTURBANCES IN MOSLEM AREAS OF CALCUTTA OVER
STERILIZATION

REF: CALCUTTA 2060

1. TENSION HAS NOW SUBSIDED SOMEWHAT IN MOSLEM AREAS OF
THE CITY THOUGH POLICE PRESENCE IS STILL HEAVIER THAN
USUAL. BARRICADES WHICH POLICE PUT UP ON AUGUST 22 AND
23 ARE DOWN NOW.

2. CHIEF MINISTER RAY TOURED CALCUTTA'S MOSLEM QUARTERS
AUGUST 23 AND GAVE ASSURANCES AGAINST COMPULSORY STER-
ILIZATION. PAPERS AUGUST 25 CARRY TEXT OF A "CITIZENS'
APPEAL" BY SEVEN MOSLEM NOTABLES CALLING ON PEOPLE NOT
TO BE MISLED BY "BASELESS RUMORS THAT COMPULSORY STER-
ILIZATION IS BEIG CONDUCTED 'ON INSTRUCTIONS OF THE
STATE GOVERNMENT'". STATEMENT SAYS, INTER ALIA, "FOR THE
PAST FEW DAYS RUMORS ARE BEING SPREAD BY ANTI-SOCIAL
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ELEMENTS IN CALCUTTA PARTICULARLY IN MOSLEM AREAS THATO

PEOPLE ARE BEING TAKEN BY FORCE FOR COMPULSORY STERILIZATION UNDER THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT. THERE IS NO TRUTH IN THESE RUMORS...IT IS NOT THE POLICY OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO DO STERILIZATION BY FORCE." STATEMENT CLOSES WITH AN APPEAL TO REPORT ANY RUMORS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND TO "REMAIN VIGILANT AGAINST THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ENEMIES OF THE COUNTRY AND THE NATION." PAPERS ALSO REPORT THAT WEST BENGAL CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY NURUL ISLAM (ONE OF THREE CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARIES AND THE ONLY MOSLEM) SAID THAT CAMPS WILL BE SET UP IN MOSLEM AREAS AT END OF SEPTEMBER FOLLOWING RAMADAN "TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ON FAMILY PLANNING". ISLAM REPORTEDLY SAID A CONSERVATIVE SEGMENT OF THE MOSLEM COMMUNITY IS AGAINST FAMILY PLANNING BUT EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO CONVINCE THESE PEOPLE OF THE NEED FOR POPULATION CONTROL.

3. PRESS STILL CARRIES NOTHING ABOUT THE INCIDENTS THEMSELVES, BUT WE NOTE TWO SMALL ITEMS IN STATESMAN AUGUST 25, ONE REPORTING ARREST OF 23 PERSONS FOR ASSAULT ON CONSTABLES AUGUST 22 AND A SECOND REPORTING ARREST OF 52 PERSONS FOR RIOTING, ATTEMPTED MURDER AND MURDER OF A CONSTABLE, ALSO ON AUGUST 22, IN BOTH CASES IN MOSLEM AREAS OF THE CITY. THIS COINCIDES WITH STORY WE HAVE HEARD, THAT ONE POLICEMAN WAS KILLED BY A MOB ON AUGUST 22 AND SEVERAL WERE INJURED.
KORN

UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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